



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resumed Forty-seventh Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 1:	
Reports of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade	1

President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 1

Reports of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/4752, E/4624/Add.2)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it a progress report by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade on the preparation of a preliminary draft of an international development strategy (E/4752)¹ and the report of the Preparatory Committee on its fourth session (E/4624/Add.2).²

2. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that, although the progress report might give the impression that the Preparatory Committee's work had been modest, the Committee had made commendable headway, in view of the difficulty of forecasting the developing countries' economic and social progress during the coming decade; actually the Committee's approach had been less inhibited than that of certain other bodies and it had achieved a number of practical results which would serve as a valuable guide for preparing the final document which was to mark the beginning of the Second Development Decade.

3. The members of the Council were also members of the Preparatory Committee and therefore familiar with the report. His delegation had only two observations to make. Firstly, since the Preparatory Committee would meet only twice more, it would be for the Council to submit recommendations concerning the Second Development Decade to the General Assembly at its next session. In formulating its recommendations, the Council should consider not only the measures which would enable the international community to contribute to the developing countries' economic and social progress during the Decade, but also some fitting way to mark the beginning of the Decade—an occasion which would be all the more solemn as it would coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. The Council's agenda for its forty-ninth session at Geneva should take account of those matters as well as any others which the Council would have to take over on behalf of the Preparatory Committee when the

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 40, document A/7699.

² *Ibid.*, document A/7525/Add.3.

latter was discontinued. The Council's main work would include not only the preparations for the Second Development Decade but also the solution of the day-to-day problems encountered during the Decade in achieving the aims established at the outset. In his delegation's view, the Council alone was responsible for determining a method of evaluation and for proposing measures which would enable the General Assembly to take the necessary decisions.

4. Secondly, there was the matter of universality; although the suggestions in the report regarding international policies should be acceptable to all Member States, the results would be far less effective if any Member State failed to participate. Some States already felt unable to do so; if such abstention continued, the resultant lack of concerted effort might cast doubts on United Nations intentions and the strategy might appear to be only a juxtaposition of bilateral policies. His delegation hoped that the Council, or its members in the Second Committee, would give some thought to the problem of universality and seek solutions helpful to all States.

5. The Preparatory Committee should hold its next session at Geneva. His delegation realized, however, that that might create certain problems, and it was ready to discuss the matter in an effort to reach an acceptable solution. If the session was to be held in New York, it would have to begin at a suitable interval after the end of the second resumption of the Trade and Development Board's ninth session, so that the Board's findings could be studied and Governments could give their instructions. A minimum interval of two weeks seemed necessary, and he proposed that the Preparatory Committee's fifth session should begin during the first week of March instead of the last week in February, provided that the postponement entailed no difficulties.

6. The PRESIDENT suggested that the question of the dates of the fifth session should be raised at the meeting to be held on 27 October 1969, when the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1970 and 1971 was to be debated.

7. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that the Preparatory Committee's report on its fourth session, while indicating that not everything hoped for had been achieved, clearly showed the progress made to be an example of international co-operation. He hoped that the Second Committee would give due emphasis to the work of the Preparatory Committee and the specialized agencies, whose contribution was essential to the success of the development strategy.

8. His delegation might wish to comment later on certain points in the report, particularly in the draft preamble;³

³ *Ibid.*, document A/7525/Add.3, annex.

although it regarded the latter as a useful starting point, it could not associate itself with some of the present wording or emphasis; for example, the reference to "Governments" should be amended to read "Governments participating in the Decade". The wording of paragraph 11 of the draft preamble should also be carefully reconsidered in due course.

9. Mr. OSMAN (Sudan) said that, whereas the French representative had referred to the universality of the work relating to the Decade, the United Kingdom representative had referred only to participating Governments. His delegation felt that participation should be universal.

10. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its debate on the item and read out the text of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the progress report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade on the preparation of a preliminary draft of an international development strategy as well as the report of the Preparatory Committee on its fourth session,

"1. Transmits those reports to the General Assembly;

*"2. Draws the attention of the General Assembly to the comments and observations of the Council on the subject."*⁴

11. Mr. GHELEV (Bulgaria) requested a vote on the draft resolution and said that he wished to explain his vote afterwards.

The draft resolution was adopted by 24 votes to 2.

12. Mr. GHELEV (Bulgaria) explained that, in voting against the draft resolution, his delegation was reaffirming the principle expressed in the letter dated 24 February 1969 from the representative of Bulgaria to the President of the General Assembly.⁵

13. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in explanation of his vote, said that his vote against the adoption of the draft resolution was consistent with the views expressed in the letter dated 21 February 1969 from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the President of the General Assembly.⁶

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3A (A/7603/Add.1), chapter I.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 37, document A/7491.

⁶ *Ibid.*, document A/7490.